

Lasallian family, especially relatives of the Brothers and former Brothers, based on the concept of stewardship for the Lasallian tradition. "Associates in Stewardship" was a constant theme in his quarterly publication called Lasallian Notes. He took special care to celebrate the lives of the deceased Brothers and to keep in contact with their families, most notably through the annual Memorial Mass. Involved as he was in public relations for the district, Brother Stephen never lost his association with Manhattan College. He rarely missed a formal college event, alumni gathering, funeral or social occasion, traveling from Lincroft by hired limo when he could no longer drive and serving as a kind of informal public relations person for the College. When the strain of his very active retirement proved to be too much for his declining physical resources, he retired reluctantly but gracefully in 2004, at age 83, and took up residence in De La Salle Hall. There, he died peacefully on January 9, 2007.

—Luke Salm, F.S.C.●

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE TOOKER

● Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I wish to acknowledge the lifetime work of the artist George Tooker. Earlier this month, President Bush presented him with the National Medal of Arts, our Nation's highest and most prestigious award for artistic excellence.

George Tooker, born in New York City, is a resident of Hartland, VT. After studying English literature at Harvard and then studying painting at the Art Students League of New York, he found a world of modern possibilities in the medieval and Renaissance medium of egg tempera, helping to begin a revitalization of that technique. The choice of egg tempera gave his paintings an archaic and otherworldly feel, creating wonderfully rich juxtapositions as Tooker often used contemporary subjects and circumstances as the theme of his work. For instance, many of his paintings convey images of modernity and alienation while using colors, surface finishes, and techniques that hearken back to the long tradition of art history. But they do more, of course; the reference to that long tradition of culture foregrounds the current manifestations of that culture, which George Tooker addresses as his subject.

Although some have seen elements of fantasy in his paintings, George Tooker has been explicit; he seeks not an escape into a dream world but, rather, the creation of a new approach to realism. "I am after painting reality impressed on the mind so hard that it returns as a dream, but I am not after painting dreams as such, or fantasy," he once said.

His haunting works often highlight the increased social isolation that has accompanied the pressures of modernization on everyday life. He deals with society and its very real consequences; although many of his paintings retain a magical and stylized feel, at their heart are images that have the capacity to reveal and reflect many of the deepest feelings each viewer of

Tooker's work encounters in his or her own life in the contemporary world.

I commend Mr. George Tooker for his important contributions to American art and congratulate him on receiving the National Medal of Arts. We in Vermont are proud of his accomplishment.●

RECOGNIZING MAINE MACHINE PRODUCTS COMPANY

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, with tremendous enthusiasm, I recognize Maine Machine Products Company, a phenomenal small business from my home State of Maine that manufactures products for various hi-tech industries. Because of its hard work and dedication to leading its field, Maine Machine Products was recognized with the Maine Development Foundation's Champion of Economic Development Award at the Foundation's annual meeting on October 5, 2007. Headquartered in South Paris, Maine Machine Products has a history replete with innovation and success, and is a company highly deserving of such an aptly titled award.

Founded in 1956 by Roland Sutton, Maine Machine Products is a custom precision manufacturer of components and assemblies whose products are sent to global high-technology markets including those serving the defense and aerospace, telecom and fiber optic, and semiconductor markets. Located in a temperature-controlled 75,000-square-foot building in western Maine, Maine Machine Products employs roughly 150 highly skilled workers who consistently produce products of the finest quality for these vital industries. Always seeking to be on the cutting edge of technology, Maine Machine Products earlier this year began working with the Mazak Integrex e-Series, which is the most advanced multitasking machine in custom precision manufacturing. The machine allows the company to complete all operations, such as turning, boring, and drilling, in a single setup, increasing productivity and efficiency. Additionally, the firm has upgraded its Clean Room, where it tests and finishes semiconductor equipment, by expanding it and making other improvements.

More than merely adding to its existing infrastructure, Maine Machine Products has made significant contributions to both its employees and the western Maine community. Two programs, in particular, demonstrate the attention that the company pays to its workers and aspiring manufacturing personnel. First, Maine Machine Products makes use of the machine operators skills training grant, MOST, program, that assists firms with the training of their computer numerical control, or CNC, operators. In addition, the program attempts to fill open CNC positions with nontraditional workers by training individuals and matching them with employers. In MOST's inaugural season, 52 incumbent Maine Ma-

chine Products employees received training through the program, and the company hired 6 new employees who participated.

Through a second program, Maine Machine Products gives scholarships to students who are enrolled in the Machine Tool Program at Central Maine Community College based in Auburn. Since its inception in 1974, Maine Machine Products' scholarship program has sponsored 47 scholarships. The program provides a work-study program to students who qualify, and—most fittingly—many graduates of the scholarship program are presently employed at Maine Machine Products.

Maine Machine Products has filled a specific niche in the precision custom manufacturing industry for over five decades, and it continues to be a market leader. With measured expansion and sustained growth throughout the years, Maine Machine Products has excelled in a highly technical and competitive field. I wish everyone at Maine Machine Products continued success and growth in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 12:37 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hanrahan, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 1429. An act to reauthorize the Head Start Act, to improve program quality, to expand access, and for other purposes.

At 2:43 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2082) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes; it agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints the following Members as managers of the conference on the part of the House: